

Flight Lieutenant John Edward Van Schaick, DFM, had joined the squadron in the autumn of 1941, and on 7th November, flying Supermarine Spitfire PR-V, he shot down a Messerschmitt Bf109F 10 miles northeast of Le Touquet, France. He later became a flight commander with No. 137 Squadron at Manston, flying Westland Whirlwinds. On 31st October 1942 he was shot down into the sea near Boulogne, being rescued by the crew of a Supermarine Walrus, which taxied into a minefield to pick him up after 5 hours in his dinghy. He was subsequently taken off operations and on 20th February 1943 he was killed whilst serving with No. 59 Operational Training Unit.

Unteroffizier Karl Lessmöllman was a crew member of Junkers Ju 88A-5 bomber (werk nummer 0404, coded F6+BM) shot down into the Sea off Skegness at 10.13hrs on 8 Mar 41, by Spitfires of No 266 Sqn, RAF Wittering, (Flying Officer Ferris and Sergeant van Schaick). The date on Karl Lessmöllmans' headstone, 27 Apr 1941, is presumed to be that on which his body was washed ashore, or otherwise recovered from the Sea. He was buried on 30 Apr.1941 Aged 22. The pilot of one of the Spitfires, Flying Officer Frederick Peter Ferris, aged 27, also lost his life during this engagement and is buried in Chawton Churchyard, near Alton, Hants.

DFM Award:

758018      VAN SCHAICK John Edward      Sgt      609      02.12.41